

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

15-110

Orleans

EAS.24

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 1950 State Highway

Historic Name: Arthur W. Parnell House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1928

Source: Title and mortgage records

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Parged concrete block (possibly)

Wall/Trim: Synthetic clapboard, wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Outbuilding (possibly garage)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None on record

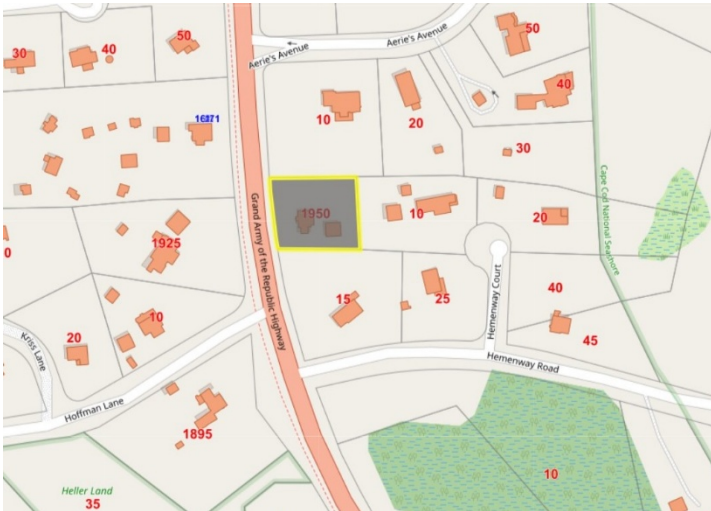
Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.40 acres

Setting: This property is located along a residential stretch of the State Highway. The surrounding area includes houses on varying sized lots from the 19th into the 21st century. This house faces and is set back slightly from the State Highway. The property is left largely open around the house with lawn and foundation plantings. A gravel driveway leads across the front of the house to an outbuilding behind the house.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

1950 STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Built in 1928, this is a charming example of a Colonial Revival-style house. The Colonial Revival style began in the late-19th century with a new interest in the country's own architecture of the Colonial-era and early Republic, and was a style that remained popular well into the 20th century. The main character-defining feature of the style for this house is the 1½-story form with a Gambrel roof. In addition to the main block, there is a one-story ell on the right (south) side. The other feature representative of the style is the centered entrance porch with its pedimented roof. The front elevations are clad in synthetic clapboards and the side elevations with weathered wood shingles. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and has very deeply-projecting open eaves. Broad shed dormers span the front and rear roof slopes.

The front elevation is five bays wide with a centered entrance. This configuration is typical of Full Capes, and this house can be seen as a variation on that form (Cape is a form, not a style). Windows consist primarily of wood, single-glazed 6/1 double-hung sash set in flat frames. It is unknown if some of these windows are original, but they are an historically appropriate window muntin pattern for the style and period.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved (indeed, portions of this property were taken for expansion of the State Highway).

The parcel on which this house was built was sold in March 1928 by John G. and Clara P. Fulcher of Eastham to Arthur W. Parnell, also of Eastham.¹ He appears to have built the house right away; he took out a mortgage with Seamen's Savings Bank in February 1929 and that mortgage referenced buildings.² He is also listed in Dunham's 1929 Cape Cod Directory owning a house on Kings Highway (State Highway). He died in 1935, and the *Boston Globe* provided the following obituary on August 15:

Arthur W. Parnell, 61, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, died here this morning at his home on the King's highway. A native of Boston and long connected with the offices of the Leyland Line and the Eastern S. S. line, Mr. Parnell retired in 1915 to make his home on Cape Cod with his mother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Parnell, 93, the oldest woman in Eastham. As

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 450/ Page 457.

² Book 463/ Page 194.

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his health improved, Mr. Parnell began to take an active interest in local affairs. He had been a Selectman of the town of Eastham for 15 years, holding the office of chairman of the board for 12 years of that time.

In 1936, a year after his death, Seamen's Savings Bank foreclosed on his mortgage and took title to the house.³ What followed was a fairly rapid succession of sales: that same year, the bank sold this property to Edna M. and Charles Foster Atwood of Eastham; in 1939, the Atwoods sold this property to Anthony C. and Nellie C. Tarvers of Provincetown; in 1941, the Tarvers sold it to Hattie E. Foster and Josephine E. Reed of Eastham; and that same year, Foster and Reed sold it to Winford L. and Marjorie R. Schofield of Eastham.⁴

Winford Lester Schofield was born in Nova Scotia in 1908. He married Ruth Marjorie Richardson (1910-2002) in Weston, MA in 1930, and he was one of four included in a photograph in the *Boston Globe* in 1930 about Northeastern students performing in a musical comedy. He graduated in 1932 and appears to have worked as a civil engineer. They were living in Orleans in 1957 when they sold this house to Agamemnon and Cleopatra Commatas of Eastham.⁵ They were living in Watertown in 1972 when they sold this house to Charles H. and Irene B. Pettis of Manchester, CT, and they were living in Eastham in 1985 when they sold it to the current owners, Arthur J. and Agnes J. Haddad of Red Hook, NJ.⁶

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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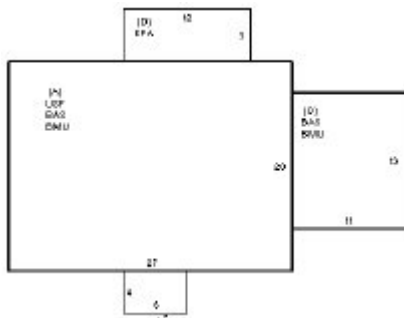


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from State Highway, looking ESE.

³ Book 517/ Page 558.

⁴ Book 524/ Page 295, Book 560/ Page 476, Book 575/ Page 88, Book 578/ Page 421.

⁵ Book 973/ Page 264.

⁶ Book 1583/ Page 32, Book 4451/ Page 344.